

A HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE FOR NEGROES  
IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
1950 - 1957

A THESIS  
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN LIBRARY SERVICE

BY  
PENNIE WILLIAMS DICKY

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JUNE, 1960

R= iii T= 50

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	iii
Chapter	
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Purpose and Scope	
Methodology	
A History of Jackson, Mississippi	
II. HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE TO NEGROES . . . . .	15
Legal Provisions for Library Service	
The Junior League Project	
Summary	
III. THE STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE TO NEGROES IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI . . . . .	26
Carver Municipal Library and College	
Park Branch Library	
Quarters	
Personnel	
Circulation	
Collections	
Summary	
IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	36
APPENDIXES . . . . .	43
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	48

# LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Incomes of Families and Unrelated Individuals in Jackson, Mississippi, 1949 . . . . .	6
2. Major Industry Groups and Employment Status in Jackson, Mississippi . . . . .	7
3. Salary Scale of Jackson Public Library System October 1, 1953 - September 30, 1957 . . . . .	31
4. Summary of Statistics for Carver and College Park Branch Libraries, 1951-1957 . . . . .	32
5. Registered Borrowers of Carver and College Park Branch Libraries, 1951-1957 . . . . .	40

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The history of library service in a community usually gives an account of conditions and situations which existed during the establishment of such services. Studies of this type, in many instances, may serve as an incentive and guide to citizens of other communities, and help them realize various possibilities for providing library service in their own communities where none exist.

A survey of library service within a community points out the adequacy of facilities and services as measured against standards established by groups and organizations of the library profession. A survey made by the Southeastern Library Association in 1946-1947 revealed among other things, the inadequacy of library service for Negroes in the Southeastern region.<sup>1</sup> To many communities this report served as a stimulus, creating a desire within many citizens to improve the situation within their area.<sup>2</sup>

Although the Negro is a tax paying resident of the United States, he is an infrequent user of public library services. He has been primarily tied to the rural areas and has been underprivileged economically and academically. However, as educational

---

<sup>1</sup>Louis R. Wilson and Marion A. Milczewski, editors, Libraries of the Southeast, A Report of the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey, 1946-1947 (Chapel Hill: The Southeastern Library Association, 1949).

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 253-385.



opportunities for the Negro improve there is every likelihood that he will become a more avid consumer of literature thus affecting library planning in many cities especially in the South.

One cannot say that such publications as histories of library service in other communities or survey reports helped to motivate the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi to do something about public library service in their community. Nevertheless, within the last decade the citizens and city officials of the city of Jackson, Mississippi have given a great deal of consideration to a library building program in an attempt to remedy the inadequate library facilities.

#### Purpose and Scope

This study is one in a series of historical studies being made of library service to Negroes in southern cities by students in the Atlanta University School of Library Service. It is an attempt to compile the scattered information concerning the origin and development of public library service for Negroes in Jackson, Mississippi from 1950 through 1957.

The facts presented in this study will give details concerning the establishment of the first public library for the Negroes of Jackson, Mississippi and conditions which ~~led~~ to the construction of present public library facilities. A description of the library quarters and services rendered will be given. It is hoped that the information presented in this study will in some way motivate citizens in other cities in Mississippi to develop and provide library facilities for not only Negroes but for all citizens.

### Methodology

The material for this study was gathered from numerous sources. The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Carver Branch Library were examined for pertinent facts concerning the origin and development of the first public library for Negroes in Jackson, Mississippi. Monthly and annual reports of the Carver and College Park libraries were examined for statistics of circulation and registered borrowers. The 1957 compilation of County, Regional and District Library Laws<sup>1</sup> was checked for material relating to the library laws of Mississippi. For a description of the community and its composition the Census of 1950,<sup>2</sup> The Story of Jackson,<sup>3</sup> and material furnished by the Chamber of Commerce were used. For evaluation of the physical plant, personnel, and the collection Public Library Service: A Guide to Evaluation with Minimum Standards,<sup>4</sup> was used. The chief librarian of the Jackson Municipal Library, Miss Pearl Sneed and the director of Negro library service, Miss Vivian Roman both were cooperative in making available records and reports necessary for this study. They also gave time from their busy schedules to discuss the material and answer any questions which were not clear in the records. Librarians and other members of the

---

<sup>1</sup>American Library Association, County, Regional and District Library Laws, Compiled by the Committee of Library Extension (Chicago: American Library Association, 1957).

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. Seventeenth Census of the United States: 1950. Population. Vol. II, Part 24 (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1952).

<sup>3</sup>William D. McCain, The Story of Jackson, Vol. I (Jackson, Mississippi: Hyer Publishing Company, 1953).

<sup>4</sup>American Library Association, Public Library Service: A Guide to Evaluation, With Minimum Standards. Prepared by the Coordinating Committee on Revision of Public Library Standards (Chicago: American Library Association, 1956).

community connected with library service for Negroes in Jackson, Mississippi were interviewed.

Two aspects of public library service for Negroes in Jackson will be considered in this study: (1) The history of the development which includes the origin, government and community factors, and (2) the description of the library which will embrace the physical plant, the library personnel, the book collection and the types of service rendered.

#### A History of Jackson, Mississippi

Jackson, Mississippi is a modern city with a population of 98,271. The city, originally called LeFleur's Bluff, was founded in 1792. It was chosen as the state capital in 1821 and later the name was changed to Jackson, in honor of Andrew Jackson, a popular military idol of that day.<sup>1</sup>

Before the Civil War, Jackson had become a prominent southern capital, but during the War most of the city was destroyed by Sherman's armies. In the years following the War, the rebuilding of the city was slow, in fact, its population had only reached 7,000 by the turn of the century.<sup>2</sup>

Since 1900 the population has greatly increased and the city has again become a prominent southern capital.

---

<sup>1</sup>Jackson Chamber of Commerce, "Jackson, Mississippi, Capital City," (n. d.)

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

It has complete cultural, educational, religious and recreational facilities, along with progressive business and professional firms, combining to make a balanced community of opportunity and prosperous citizens.<sup>1</sup>

### Standard of Living

The standard of living in Jackson, Mississippi may be derived from observation of the income of families and occupations. Of the 98,271 persons in Jackson, Mississippi, 40,168<sup>2</sup> or 41 percent are Negroes. As shown in Table 1, the median income received by Negro families in Jackson was \$1,325 while that of white families was \$3,320. Out of 22,145 white families 2,050 or nine percent of them ranged within the median income group and 2,490 or 17 percent of the 13,225 Negro families ranged within their median income group. Among the white families, 2,220 or nine percent of them received an income of less than \$500 while among Negro families 2,510 or 19 percent received less than \$500. There were few Negro families in the high income bracket. Only 125 or one percent of the Negro families received an income of \$4,500 or above, whereas 5,470 or 26 percent of the white families received an income of \$4,500 and above.

Table 2 reveals that 560 or two percent of the whites and 1,331 or eight percent of the Negroes eligible for employment were unemployed. Among the 16,200 employed Negroes, personal services, which includes private household work and is usually in the lower income bracket, provided employment for 5,178 or 32 percent of them.

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>U. S. Bureau of the Census, op. cit., pp. 24-49.

TABLE 1  
INCOMES OF FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS,  
IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, 1949<sup>a</sup>

Incomes	All	White	Per- cent	Nonwhite	Per- cent
Less than \$500	4,710	2,200	9.0	2,510	19.0
\$500 - 999	3,260	905	4.0	2,355	18.0
1,000 - 1,499	3,350	1,080	5.0	2,270	17.0
1,500 - 1,999	4,220	1,730	8.0	2,490	19.0
2,000 - 2,499	3,385	2,030	9.0	1,355	10.0
2,500 - 2,999	2,565	1,810	8.0	755	6.0
3,000 - 3,499	2,540	2,050	9.0	490	4.0
3,500 - 3,999	1,850	1,630	7.0	220	1.6
4,000 - 4,499	1,440	1,330	6.0	110	.8
4,500 - 4,999	1,055	1,015	5.0	40	.3
5,000 - 5,999	1,590	1,565	7.0	35	.3
6,000 - 6,999	1,045	1,030	5.0	15	.1
7,000 - 9,999	1,080	1,060	5.0	20	.2
10,000 and above	815	800	4.0	15	.1
Income not reported	2,465	1,920	9.0	545	4.0
All	35,370	22,145	...	13,225	...
Median Income	\$2,135	\$3,320 <sup>b</sup>	...	\$1,325	...

<sup>a</sup>U. S. Bureau of the Census, op. cit., pp. 24-51.

<sup>b</sup>An approximated figure.

TABLE 2

MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUPS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI<sup>a</sup>

Industries	All	White	Per- cent	Non- white	Per- cent
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	314	156	.6	158	1.0
Mining	370	357	1.3	13	.08
Construction	3,886	2,007	8.0	1,879	11.5
Manufacturing	5,823	3,840	13.0	2,343	14.4
Transportation, Communication and Other public utilities	3,792	2,792	11.0	1,000	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade	10,144	7,086	27.2	3,058	19.0
Business and repair services	1,162	865	3.3	297	2.0
Finance, insurance and real estate	2,095	1,850	7.1	245	1.5
Entertainment and recreation service	399	278	1.0	121	1.0
Personal services	6,302	1,124	4.3	5,178	32.0
Professional and related services	4,927	3,409	13.1	1,518	9.3
Public administration	2,584	2,323	9.0	261	1.6
Industry not reported	406	277	1.0	129	1.0
Total Civilian Labor Force	44,095	26,564	...	17,531	...
Employed	42,204	26,004	98.0	16,200	92.0
Self Employed <sup>b</sup>	3,650	2,822	10.8	828	5.1
Unemployed	1,891	560	2.0	1,331	8.0

<sup>a</sup>Ibid., pp. 24-49.

<sup>b</sup>Not to be added to the total employed for the figures are  
already included.

Wholesale and retail trade provided employment for 7,086 white persons or 27.2 percent and for 3,058 Negroes or 19 percent. Public administration, which includes postal services and state and local administration, provided employment for 2,323 or nine percent of the white persons and only 216 or two percent of the Negroes. More than 350 products are manufactured in the 285 plants which provide employment for 3,480 or 13 percent of the whites and 2,343 or 14.4 percent of the Negroes. Excellent transportation facilities are provided by two airlines, two railroad systems, three intra-state and inter-state bus lines, 14 truck lines, municipal bus service and numerous forms of commercial transportation, among which are employed 2,792 or 11 percent of the employed whites and 1,000 or six percent of the employed Negroes.

#### Education

The colleges for white students located in or near Jackson are Millsaps College, founded in 1892; Belhaven College, founded in 1894; Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, founded in 1826; and Hinds County Junior College in Raymond, Mississippi. The colleges for Negro students located in or near Jackson are Jackson State College, founded in 1882; Campbell (Junior) College, founded in 1898; Tougaloo Southern Christian College founded in 1869 at Tougaloo, Mississippi; and Piney Woods School (a Junior College), founded in 1909 at Piney Woods, Mississippi.<sup>1</sup>

The Jackson Public School System consists of four senior high schools, four junior high schools, and 28 elementary schools.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>McCain, op. cit., p. 247.

<sup>2</sup>Jackson Chamber of Commerce, op. cit.

For Negroes there are the W. H. Lanier Junior-Senior High School, the Jim Hill Junior-Senior High School, the Brinkley Elementary-Junior High School, the Rowan Elementary-Junior High School and eight elementary schools. The state operated schools for the blind and deaf are also located in the city of Jackson.

The public school plants for the whites and Negroes differ in that there is a distinct separation of grade levels in the white schools while there is an over-lapping of grade levels in the Negro public schools. That is, the Negro senior high schools house students of the junior high school grades and the junior high schools house students of the elementary grades. With the educational facilities thus provided, the 1950 census shows that the median school years completed by the average Negro in Jackson, Mississippi was 6.8 years.<sup>1</sup> This figure may be influenced by the fact that at least five of the Negro public schools have only been in existence since 1950.

#### Religious, Cultural and Social Facilities

To take care of the spiritual needs of the community, numerous churches representing many denominations are located throughout the city. For recreational purposes, the city operates 12 public parks, four of which contain swimming pools and community club houses, and one, Livingston Park, which contains a zoo. There are four golf courses,<sup>2</sup> none of which may be used by Negroes. Of

---

<sup>1</sup>U. S. Bureau of the Census, op. cit.

<sup>2</sup>Jackson Chamber of Commerce, op. cit.



the 12 public parks, only one, College Park, is for the Negroes of Jackson. It has a club house, a swimming pool, a ball park and an auditorium. Negroes may visit the Livingston Park Zoo but are not permitted use of its swimming pool.

In Jackson there are a number of medical facilities among which are: the Medical School of the University of Mississippi and its hospital of 350 beds; the Mississippi Baptist Hospital with 400 beds and a School of Nursing; Saint Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital with 150 beds; and a 600-bed hospital operated by the Veterans Administration. The laboratory of the State Board of Health, several clinics, and convalescent homes are also located in Jackson.<sup>1</sup>

Jackson boasts of a Symphony Orchestra, Opera Guild and a Little Theatre which offers programs and attractions throughout the winter season. Nationally famous artists and musical groups are annually sponsored through the Community Concert Series and local concert managers.<sup>2</sup> Negroes are not admitted to these presentations but the Symphony Orchestra is usually presented in concert each year by the Jackson State College Lyceum Association. Through the Negro churches, schools, colleges and various community groups, many cultural and interesting programs are brought to the Negro community.

Each year the Jackson State College Lyceum Association schedules

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

a series of varied programs in music and drama. These programs usually include a popular or noteworthy drama by a group of touring players, concerts by nationally known artists, and dance groups. Fraternities and sororities often sponsor dramatic presentations and other programs for the general public. The colleges in the vicinity usually sponsor several programs for the public in addition to the band and choir concerts which are annual events.

Like the churches, schools and other social agencies of the community, the public library should be an integral part of community activities. In addition to the libraries associated with the colleges, schools and other institutions in the city, the Mississippi State Library Commission is located in Jackson. The Jackson Municipal Library has three branches, Livingston Park Branch Library, George Washington Carver Municipal Library, and College Park Branch Library which are governed by the Board of Trustees of Jackson Municipal Libraries. The College Park Branch Library and Carver Municipal Library serve the Negro public of Jackson, Mississippi.

Prior to the Civil War and in the years immediately following there was a high degree of illiteracy among people of the South, especially the Negroes. The War had devastated the South; it had to be rebuilt and many adjustments had to be made. The slave status of Negroes was changed and although they remained in the South as an economic force, they were no longer property to be owned but citizens who needed employment, homes, schools, churches and other

facilities common to a well balanced community.<sup>1</sup>

The greater part of the War's destruction fell on the South for the War was almost exclusively in that section. Therefore, while the South was struggling to rebuild its cities and economy, the North was forming new industries and expanding its commerce. Some sections of the South were slower to rebuild than others.<sup>2</sup> This may in part be contributed to the fact that many southern cities follow the tradition of segregation, which is expensive because it is necessary to duplicate the vital educational, recreational, medical and other facilities in a futile attempt to equalize community services.

Jackson, Mississippi, showing signs of recovering, has made progress in many areas since 1900, but it is only in recent years that some positive effort has been directed toward developing and improving public facilities for Negroes. Public library service to Negroes is a very recently added chapter to the city's history of progress. A Carnegie Public Library was opened in 1914,<sup>3</sup> for the white citizens of Jackson and through a project sponsored by the Junior League of Jackson a public library was opened for Negroes 36 years later on January 12, 1950.<sup>4</sup> The Junior League is an organization of white female citizens whose main objective is to aid in the

---

<sup>1</sup>Harold Lee Hitchens, "Civil War," The American Peoples Encyclopedia, ed. Franklin J. Meine, V (1952), 555.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Miss Pearl Sneed, Librarian, Jackson Municipal Library, June 6, 1958.

<sup>4</sup>Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 16, 1950, Board of Trustees of Carver Branch Library, Jackson, Mississippi.

development of the city of Jackson by spearheading worthwhile community services.

"The Negro population in any community should have full library representation, both in demand and supply."<sup>1</sup> Since library service was not provided for the Negroes of Jackson, the Junior League felt that a library for Negroes was a definite community need. The building program, promoted by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library, which included a library for Negroes, was not complete at this time. Therefore, in the fall of 1949, the Junior League, with some assistance from the Public Library Board, made plans for the opening of a library for the Negroes of Jackson.<sup>2</sup>

The project was launched with these conditions in the proposal: (see Appendix I).

The Board of Trustees is willing to sponsor the project as a demonstration, and at no time should it be interpreted as service in lieu of the regular plan for adequate branch service to Negroes, nor will it in any way interfere with plans for the room in the community center on Lynch Street for Negro library service.

At the expiration of the demonstration period, all equipment, including books, will be transferred to the authority of the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library.<sup>3</sup>

The library sponsored by the Junior League was named George Washington Carver Branch Library in honor of the great Negro scientist.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Helen E. Haines, Living With Books (New York: Columbia University Press, 1950), p. 25.

<sup>2</sup>Sneed, op. cit.

<sup>3</sup>Report to the Junior League by the Committee Appointed to Study and Make Plans for the Library Project. [n. d.]

<sup>4</sup>Minutes of the Board of Trustees, October 14, 1949, Branch Library Sponsored by Junior League, Jackson, Mississippi.

It operated 21 months under the auspices of the Junior League. On October 1, 1951, the responsibility and operation of the George Washington Carver Branch Library was assumed by the Jackson Public Library Board.<sup>1</sup> This marked the beginning of publicly supported library service for Negroes in Jackson, Mississippi.

According to previous plans to provide a room in the community center for Negro library service, the Jackson Public Library Board opened in March, 1952, a second branch library for Negroes in the College Park Auditorium and called it the College Park Branch Library. In 1956, the George Washington Carver Branch Library was moved into a new and modern structure. It was dedicated April 12, 1956, and the name was changed to the George Washington Carver Municipal Library.<sup>2</sup>

Prior to the availability of public library service for Negroes in Jackson, the two Negro colleges within the urban area, Campbell College and Jackson College, were not able to provide library service for the community because the facilities they had were inadequate for their own student bodies. Tougaloo College, located approximately five miles from Jackson, offered library service to the members of its Parent Teachers' Association. Generally speaking, the people of the community made few demands on the colleges for library services.

---

<sup>1</sup>Annual Report of Carver and College Park Branch Libraries, by the Librarian, Mrs. R. S. Lyells, Jackson, Mississippi, September 25, 1952.

<sup>2</sup>Interview with Miss Vivian Roman, Librarian, George Washington Carver Municipal Library, June 6, 1958.

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE TO NEGROES

#### Legal Provisions for Library Service

The library laws of a state are the foundation for the library laws of the cities within the state. The Legislature of Mississippi has made the following provisions for library service within the state.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state to allow and promote the establishment and development of free public library service throughout this state as part of its provision for public education.<sup>1</sup>

This empowers:

The board of supervisors of any county in the state of Mississippi or other governing bodies of the counties of this state and municipalities or towns through their governing bodies to establish and maintain free public libraries for the use of the citizens of the respective counties, municipalities or towns either separately or in connection with free libraries already established therein...<sup>2</sup>

Although the foundation for public library service has been established by the state library laws, many cities in Mississippi do not provide public library service for all its citizens. The

---

<sup>1</sup>Mississippi Code of 1942, Section 6200, quoted in Velma Taylor, "State Can Take Lead With Library Service," The Jackson Clarion Ledger, (June 9, 1958), p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

Jackson-Carnegie Public Library, which provided library service to the white citizens, had been built through a grant of \$25,000 from Andrew Carnegie in 1914. By 1944 it had outgrown its book capacity and its limited staff and finances offered other handicaps. Yet it was not until that year that the city officials indicated that they had given library service any serious consideration when the City Council passed an ordinance placing the library under the general library laws of the state.<sup>1</sup>

During the same year a trained librarian, Miss Pearl Sneed, was appointed as head librarian of the Jackson-Carnegie Public Library. She received her library training from the University of Mississippi and the University of Illinois.<sup>2</sup>

Like many other southern cities, Jackson follows the tradition of segregation and although the city supported a public library its services were not extended to the Negro public of Jackson. Since no provisions were made for library service to Negroes, Miss Pearl Sneed had on numerous occasions permitted Negroes, who needed to make use of library resources, to use them in her office. She, therefore, realized and felt that there was an acute need not only to improve the library facilities but to provide public library service for the Negroes of Jackson as well. Consequently, when it was made known that the city was planning to build a municipal auditorium for Negroes, she

---

<sup>1</sup>"Jackson Municipal Library," Library Journal, LXXX (March 15, 1955), 581.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

requested that a room in this building be provided for library service to Negroes.<sup>1</sup>

The libraries of the Negro colleges in the vicinity were not equipped to serve the public. The only high school for Negroes at that time, Lanier High School, had a small library to serve its faculty and student body, and libraries in the elementary schools were non-existent.

There were several groups or social agencies which attempted to provide some reading and informational material for Negroes. Most outstanding among these agencies was the Bethlehem Center, established in 1939 by the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, New York.<sup>2</sup> The Bethlehem Center is a community center which functions mainly ~~and~~ that and does not seek to take the place of the public library, but it was, for a long time, the only place that provided any resemblance of public library service to the Negro public of Jackson. It still maintains a small collection of books and periodicals for recreational reading. Some reference and textbooks are also included in this collection. During the early part of 1940, the Mary Church Terrell Literary Club established in 1912, placed its collection of books by and about Negroes in the lounge of the Negro branch of the Young Women's Christian Association.<sup>3</sup> This provided an

---

<sup>1</sup>Sneed, op. cit.

<sup>2</sup>Interview with Mrs. Theresa Hicks Martin, staff member, Bethlehem Center, June 6, 1958.

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Mrs. M. M. Hubert, Secretary, Mary Church Terrell Literary Club, June 5, 1958.



additional source of reading material for the Negro public.

### The Junior League Project

The proposed plans for the Negro municipal auditorium had advanced little beyond the blueprint stage when, in 1948, a bond issue was passed to provide funds for the construction of the College Park Auditorium. The funds procured were insufficient and the construction of the building was delayed. This delay also meant a delay in the provision of public library service for the Negroes of Jackson. In the meantime, Mrs. Thad Ryan, president of the Junior League of Jackson, approached Miss Sneed, the librarian of the Jackson Public Library, with the idea of the Junior League sponsoring a project to provide library service for the Negroes of the city. This idea was presented to the Jackson Public Library Board and was approved with the understanding that the Junior League project was only a demonstration to last for three years and would in no way interfere with previous plans to provide public library facilities and service to Negroes.<sup>1</sup>

### Carver Branch Library

Committees of Junior League volunteers were formed to get the project initiated. The Library Board of Trustees was composed of four members of the Junior League: Mrs. Thad Ryan, Chairman; Mrs. Sherwood Wise, Chairman of the Library Project; Mrs. Joseph A. Blyth, Jr., Treasurer of the Junior League; and Mrs. W. E. Hester, Jr.; two white lay members, Mr. Ramsey Roberts and Mr. Barron C.

---

<sup>1</sup>Sneed, op. cit.

Ricketts; and three Negroes, Mrs. M. M. Hubert, Dr. Jacob L. Reddix and Professor I. S. Sanders.<sup>1</sup> This board gave the library the name, George Washington Carver Branch Library. The word "branch" was inserted in the title to make the exchange of sponsorship possible should the city decide to assume the support of Carver Library and take it over as a branch of the public library after the demonstration period.<sup>2</sup>

#### Quarters

A duplex house at 144 Davis Street was leased for three years and had to be completely remodeled for the library quarters. The selection and technical processing of all books were carried on through the Jackson Public Library and the pasting, stamping and other mechanical processes were done by League volunteers. Although the Junior League sponsored the project, it had, from the outset, the full cooperation and professional guidance of the Jackson Public Library Board and Miss Sneed, the librarian, who served in an advisory capacity. A member of the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library, Mr. Ramsey Roberts, was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carver Branch Library. This link made it possible for each group to stay currently informed of the other's progress.<sup>3</sup>

After having secured quarters for the library, there was

---

<sup>1</sup>Records of the Activities of the Board of Trustees of the Carver Branch Library, Jackson, Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup>Radio Script, "Carver Branch Library", July, 1950.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

still a great deal of work to be done before the library could be opened. Some students from Jackson College and Lanier High School assisted by sanding and refinishing the floors, papering the walls, building book shelves, doing painting and extra paving. The Alta Raymond Garden Club helped with the landscaping of the front yard, and other clubs and interested groups donated money, books and magazine subscriptions.<sup>1</sup>

#### Financial Support

A budget of \$4,000 was allocated to the library for the fiscal year and 1500 volumes were loaned from the Jackson Public Library. Books were also given by groups and various individuals interested in the library project. The League purchased a desk for the librarian, a table and 14 chairs; eight for adults and six for children. The Jackson Public Library furnished a catalog cabinet, two tables and a chair for the desk.<sup>2</sup> The Junior League was wholly responsible for the financial support of the library (see Appendix I).

#### Personnel

Mrs. Virgie Bracey was appointed as librarian at a salary of \$125 per month with the understanding that she would serve until such time that funds were available for the appointment of a professional librarian.<sup>3</sup> She had no professional training but had experienced two years of working in the Jackson College Library.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Minutes, Regular Meeting, op. cit., December 19, 1950.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., November 21, 1949.

<sup>4</sup>Letter from Miss Vivian Roman, Librarian, Carver Municipal Library, Jackson, Mississippi, June 21, 1958.

On January 12, 1950, the library had its opening, which was a gala occasion, after which it settled down to the business of serving the Negro public of Jackson with this schedule:

Schedule of the  
George Washington Carver Branch Library<sup>1</sup>

Opened to the Public

Monday, Wednesday, Friday . . .	2:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Tuesday and Thursday . . . . .	2:00 - 6:00 P.M.
Saturday . . . . .	9:00 A.M. - 12 Noon
	1:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Collection, Registration and Circulation

When the library opened, its holdings totaled 1,758 volumes acquired as follows: 1,100 volumes were loaned by the Jackson Public Library, 425 volumes were purchased with funds from the Junior League and 206 volumes were donated by friends and interested groups. Following the opening, the League set a goal to add 100 volumes to the collection each month.<sup>2</sup> The records show that even though it sometimes fell short of this goal the League did continue to add to the growth of the collection.

After one month of operation, the library had registered 526 borrowers and had circulated 1,543 books.<sup>3</sup> At the end of a little more than two months (January 16 - March 20, 1950) the borrowers had only increased to 677 of which 439 were adults and 288 were children, and 2,874 books had been circulated among them.<sup>4</sup> After operating for

---

<sup>1</sup>Radio Script, op. cit.

<sup>2</sup>Minutes, Regular Meeting, op. cit., January 16, 1950.

<sup>3</sup>Report to Carver Board of Trustees by Mrs. Bracey, Librarian, February 20, 1950.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., March 20, 1950.

almost a year, the number of registered borrowers totaled 1,140 and 10,093 books had been circulated.<sup>1</sup>

### Public Support

The Junior League, fostering a much needed community service, had completely financed the library project except for the many small gifts and donations, mostly in the form of services rendered. The League's main source of income was from the "Carnival Ball" which it sponsored annually. When in 1951 the ball had to be cancelled, there was great concern about funds for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1951, and ending March 31, 1952. It was suggested by Miss Sneed that the matter be discussed with the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library because there was a possibility that the Carver Branch Library could be transferred to the public library budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1951.<sup>2</sup> If this step were accomplished it would mean that the Carver Branch Library would become a part of the city-wide library program and supported from public funds.

When Mr. Ramsey Roberts presented the idea to the Jackson Public Library Board, it unanimously agreed to take steps to secure an adequate budget for the operation of the George Washington Carver Branch Library as part of the city-wide library program.<sup>3</sup> The City Council approved the budget to support the Carver Branch Library for

---

<sup>1</sup>Annual Report to Carver Board of Trustees by Mrs. Bracey, Librarian, December 31, 1950.

<sup>2</sup>Minutes, Regular Meeting, op. cit., January 2, 1951.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., February 6, 1951.

the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1951 and ending September 30, 1952.<sup>1</sup> This marked the initial beginning of publicly supported library service for Negroes in Jackson, Mississippi.

Thus, after operating for 21 months, having registered 1,458 borrowers; 997 adults and 461 children and having circulated 18,021 books among them, the George Washington Carver Branch Library was transferred to the authority and control of the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library. The book collection totaled 2,496 volumes in addition to the 1,100 volumes loaned by the Jackson Public Library. The Library continued to be housed in its same quarters at Davis Street until such time that the proposed Negro branch was completed.<sup>2</sup>

#### Summary

The legal foundation for free public library service in the state of Mississippi has been established through the state library laws. The laws only make the establishment of free public libraries permissible not compulsory.

In 1944, the city of Jackson turned attention to the improvement of the inadequate public library facilities for whites. Miss Pearl Sneed, the librarian of the Jackson Public Library, realized the need of public library facilities for Negroes and felt that the public library building program should also include facilities for public library service to them. She almost saw her hope realized when the construction of the College Park Auditorium was proposed.

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid., September 4, 1951.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

A room in this building was to be designated for library service to Negroes. Insufficient funds caused a delay in the construction of the auditorium and therefore a delay in public library service to the Negroes of Jackson.

The Junior League of Jackson, Mississippi, desirous of helping to develop the city into a progressive and enlightened community, felt that providing public library service for the Negroes would be a worthwhile project for it to sponsor. The idea, thus conceived, was given wholehearted support by the League members with full cooperation from the Jackson Public Library and its Board of Trustees. Financial support was given by the Junior League and professional and technical assistance were given by Miss Pearl Sneed, Librarian of the Jackson Public Library, and members of her staff. Various clubs and other groups interested in the project gave assistance in remodeling a rented duplex house for library use.

The Junior League sponsored a "Carnival Ball" each year using the funds to support the various projects which they would sponsor. Thus in 1951, when the "Carnival Ball" had to be cancelled, the members of the League were very much concerned about the outcome of their project. There were some persons on the Board of Trustees of the Carver Branch Library who were also associated with the Jackson Public Library Board. They felt that the circumstances concerning finance should be discussed with the Public Library Board of Trustees in the event it might be possible for the Jackson Public Library Board to administer the George Washington Carver Branch Library as part of the city-wide library program and support it with public funds.

This idea was presented to the Jackson Public Library Board of Trustees which took the necessary steps to secure an adequate budget to support the Carver Branch Library. The City Council approved the budget and the George Washington Carver Branch Library came under the control of the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library, October 1, 1951.



### CHAPTER III

#### THE STATUS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE FOR NEGROES IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

##### Carver Municipal Library and College Park Branch Library

With the foundation for public library service already established by the state of Mississippi, the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi passed an ordinance placing the Jackson Public Library under the general library laws of the state. In accord with these laws, the city levies three-fourths of a mill on taxable property within the municipality for the support of its public libraries. The funds procured are used for public library services and facilities only. Any funds which remain at the end of a fiscal year are added to the library budget for the next year.<sup>1</sup> From these funds the two Negro branch libraries had in 1955 an annual budget of \$12,000 and the annual salary of the head librarian was "over \$2,400".<sup>2</sup>

A board of trustees, composed of five members and the head librarian of the Jackson Public Library, govern and control the public library system which includes two branches for Negroes: College Park Branch Library and George Washington Carver Municipal Library.

---

<sup>1</sup>Letter from Roman, op. cit.

<sup>2</sup>Dorothy McAllister, "Library Service in Mississippi," Library Journal, LXXX (March 1, 1955), 537.

### Quarters

The College Park Branch Library is located on the street level to the left of the main entrance of the College Park Auditorium, on the corner of Lynch and Prentiss Streets. One room of approximately 1,275 square feet in area comprises the library.<sup>1</sup> The western end of the room is partitioned to provide a reading area for children and a small work area for the librarian. The circulation desk is also at this end behind which is a large plate glass window which makes possible the supervision of the children's area from the main reading room. The library has two tables with eight chairs for children and three tables with 12 chairs for adults. It is opened to the public from Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., and on Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. The hours are limited because there is no outside entrance to the library and it must close when the main entrance of the auditorium is closed.

College Park Branch Library is in the vicinity of two Negro colleges: Jackson State College and Campbell (Junior) College; one of the high schools, Jim Hill Junior-Senior High School; and two of the elementary schools, Reynolds Elementary School and Isable Elementary School. This makes it possible for the teachers to instruct pupils in the use of the public library and possibly to supplement the materials not found in their own school and college libraries.

---

<sup>1</sup>Letter from Roman, op. cit., July 11, 1958.

The main Negro branch library is the George Washington Carver Municipal Library which is desirably located only a few blocks from the downtown shopping district at the corner of Mill and Church Streets. This area is also heavily populated by Negroes. The Carver Branch Library was formerly located at 1144 Davis Street where it originated as a project of the Junior League of Jackson. After becoming a part of the Jackson Public Library system, it remained on Davis Street until its present quarters were ready for occupancy.<sup>1</sup> It is a one-story modern air-conditioned brick structure. The inside area of the building consists of 4,617 square feet. The area in and around the circulation desk, lobby and reading room consists of 2,913.5 square feet; the librarian's office consists of 71.5 square feet; the work-room, 162 square feet and the assembly room, which will seat approximately 90 persons is 396 square feet in size. To meet future needs there is room for expansion of the reading area. The capacity of the book shelves is 15,072 volumes.<sup>2</sup>

The front of the library faces Mill Street and consists of several large glass panels and glass doors, giving a clear view of the lobby and circulation desk from the street. In the lobby there are several comfortable lounge chairs and a newspaper rack which holds several local and national newspapers. Beyond the newspaper rack is the circulation desk and the librarian's office. To the left

---

<sup>1</sup>Sneed, op. cit.

<sup>2</sup>Blueprint of Proposed Branch Library by N. W. Overstreet and Associates, Jackson, Mississippi, December 28, 1954.

of the circulation desk is the reading room which is divided into three areas by an arrangement of shelves. To the rear of the room is the adult reading area with three tables and 18 chairs. The reference area is in the center, enclosed on two sides by book shelves, and there are six chairs to accommodate readers in this section. The children's section is to the front of the room and has two tables with eight chairs. Also in the children's area are some low shelves under the windows, and several sections of counter height shelves distinctly separate it from the reference section. The general collection is housed along the full length of the north wall and the fiction is in the extreme rear. All of the shelves are of standard steel.

To the right of the circulation desk is the workroom, exhibit cases, full length glass panels and a glass door which leads to the right wing and rear entrance. A water cooler, rest room facilities, public telephone, a staff lounge, and a public assembly room which will seat approximately 90 people is separated from the other areas by a corridor. The library is opened to the public from Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M., and on Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

Staff quarters and the workroom are conveniently located and permit an orderly flow of work. The assembly room is situated in such a way that it may be used by community groups without interfering with the quiet of the reading room. Although the assembly room may be used by community groups without charge, very few groups have made use of it. Some book reviews have been given by

a literary club but maximum use of this room has not been obtained.

### Personnel

After the Carver Branch Library came under public control in October, 1951, Mrs. Ruby S. Lyells, who received her library training at the University of Chicago, was appointed as director of public library service for the Negroes of Jackson. Her responsibility was the supervision of both branches when the College Park Branch Library opened. Her major task was that of interpreting the functions and services of the library to the Negro public. She gave book talks, participated in book discussions and used every available opportunity to make the Negroes of Jackson aware of the public library and its resources. She emphasized the fact that all the resources of the Jackson Public Library are available to Negroes through the Carver Branch Library.<sup>1</sup>

Assisting Mrs. Lyells were Mrs. Virgie Bracey at the Carver Branch Library, and Miss Vivian Roman at College Park Branch Library. Neither of the assistants had had previous library training but were college graduates. Miss Roman attended the University of Illinois Library School during the summer of 1953 and remained there through the summer of 1955 at which time she received the Master of Science Degree in Library Service. While Miss Roman attended school, Mrs. Ruth Logan, a graduate of Jackson College, served as library assistant at College Park Branch Library and she still holds that position.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Interview with Mrs. Ruby S. Lyells, Librarian, Carver and College Park Branch Libraries, June 6, 1958.

<sup>2</sup>Letter from Roman, op. cit., June 21, 1958.

Miss Roman succeeded Mrs. R. S. Lyells as director of public library service for Negroes in the fall of 1955 and still holds that position. Mrs. Virgie Bracey is a library assistant at Carver Municipal Library and there is a full-time secretary.<sup>1</sup>

The personnel of both Carver and College Park libraries receive the same benefits of retirement and social security as all other public employees. Their salaries are based on a scale which the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library System adopted first in October, 1953 (see Table 3).

TABLE 3

SALARY SCALE OF JACKSON PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
OCTOBER 1, 1953 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1957<sup>a</sup>

Qualifications	Salary Scale 1953-1956	Salary Scale 1956-1957
Master's degree in L.S. (2 years), and M.S. in subject field	\$300-350	\$325-375
B.S. or M.S. in Library Science	\$375-325	\$300-350
A.B. with major in Library Science	\$210-260	\$210-260
A.B. without major in Library Science	\$200-250	\$200-250
Assistants in Technical Processes with 2 or more years in College	...	\$175-225
Clerk Typist with High School Diploma and 1 year in recognized Business School	\$160-185	\$165-200

<sup>a</sup>The Board of Trustees has not adopted a scale for secretaries and the head librarian.

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

Circulation

The statistics concerning circulation give some indication of the use made of the public library by the Negroes of Jackson (see Table 4). During the first year of operation under public control an average of five books per person was circulated among 2,213 borrowers of which 1,452 or 66 percent were adults and 761 or 34 percent were children. In 1953-54, an average of 24 books per person

TABLE 4

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CARVER AND COLLEGE PARK  
BRANCH LIBRARIES  
1951-1957<sup>a</sup>

Fiscal Year*	Circulation	Attendance	Registered Borrowers		Total Borrowers
			Adults	Juveniles	
1951-1952	12,548	8,664	1,452	761	2,213
1952-1953	18,096	13,747	645	400	1,045
1953-1954	20,697	14,325	430	401	831
1954-1955	26,153	17,512	538	375	812
1955-1956	28,488	19,863	1,255 <sup>b</sup>	751 <sup>b</sup>	2,006 <sup>b</sup>
1956-1957	36,138	25,966	1,136	761	1,897

<sup>a</sup>Reports to the Jackson Public Library Board of Trustees by the librarians, Jackson, Mississippi, 1951-1957.

<sup>b</sup>Re-registration at both branches.

\*Fiscal year begins October 1st and ends October 31st.

was circulated among 831 borrowers of which 430 or 52 percent were adults and 401 or 48 percent were children. Over a period of six

years the number of registered borrowers has fluctuated but circulation has risen steadily. For the fiscal year 1954-55, an average of 32 books per person was circulated among 812 borrowers. In 1955-56, a period of re-registration of borrowers, an average of 14 books per person was circulated among 2,006 borrowers.

The two branches, Carver and College Park, serve a Negro population of about 30,018 (age five years and above). The recorded number of registered borrowers was 2,006. This was less than seven percent of the population. The Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library System has studied the use of the library by Negroes and feels that the public branches are not being used to their full extent. Nevertheless, another branch library for Negroes is planned for the future. It is to be located in the north west section of the city in the vicinity of a proposed new Negro high school.<sup>1</sup>

#### Collections

Through interlibrary loans all materials in the Jackson Public Library System are available to the Negroes in Jackson through the Carver Municipal Library. Having inherited a collection of more than 2,000 volumes, the Carver Municipal Library now has readily available to the Negro public of Jackson 8,816 volumes not including those which may be secured through interlibrary loan. The College Park Branch Library opened in 1952 with a completely new collection of 800 volumes in addition to 143 books for children

---

<sup>1</sup>Sneed, op. cit.



borrowed from the Jackson Municipal Library. Over a period of six years this collection has grown to 7,147 volumes.<sup>1</sup>

Both branches subscribe to over 70 magazines and approximately six newspapers. Storage space does not permit keeping the periodicals indefinitely, therefore, they are kept according to their own merits, the greater the demand the longer a periodical is kept. Only four magazines are bound by the Carver Municipal Library: The Negro History Bulletin, The Journal of Negro History, The Journal of Negro Education, and The National Geographic, but bound volumes of other magazines may be borrowed from the main library with the stipulation that they will not be circulated outside of the branch library.<sup>2</sup>

### Summary

The legal basis for the operation of the Jackson Public Library System is founded upon the library laws established by the state of Mississippi. The governing and controlling body is a board of trustees composed of five members and the head librarian of the Jackson Municipal Library. For the support of the libraries, a three-fourth mill tax is levied on all taxable property within the municipality.

Two branches within the system, the Carver Municipal Library and the College Park Branch Library, serve the Negro public of Jackson. They are conveniently located on municipal bus routes. The Carver Municipal Library, the central point of service for Negroes,

---

<sup>1</sup>Reports to the Board of Trustees, Jackson Public Library by the Librarians, Jackson, Mississippi, 1951-1957.

<sup>2</sup>Interview with Roman, op. cit.

is at the geographical center (within a two mile radius) of the dwellings of the Negro population, and is close to the downtown shopping center.

Since coming under public control, the Carver Municipal Library and College Park Branch Library have had the supervision of trained Negro librarians.

Although there are only 15,963 volumes in the two Negro branch libraries, through interlibrary loans all materials in the Jackson Public Library System are available to Negroes. Figures in Table 4 show that the number of library users has varied each year but circulation has steadily increased.

The variation in statistics concerning use and circulation poses many questions for the Board of Trustees as it plans the future library services and facilities for the citizens of Jackson. However, plans for a new Negro branch library are included in the library building program for the future.

## CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Jackson, Mississippi, the capital of the state has a population of 98,271. It is a city of diversified occupations and the larger number of inhabitants are engaged in wholesale and retail trade, personal services and manufacturing. The area of personal services, usually in the lower income bracket, is dominated by Negroes.

It is not possible to say what definite factor or factors caused the citizens of Jackson to become concerned about public library services and facilities. State and regional surveys pointing out the inadequacy of library services, especially in the South, could have served as a stimulus, as well as the work of the American Library Association in promoting the idea of federal aid in the development of public libraries. It matters not what the stimulus was, the important thing is that the citizens of Jackson realized the need of the community for public library services and facilities and put forth some effort to remedy the situation.

Authority for the establishment, maintenance, and financial support of public library facilities and service should have a sound basis in law.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>American Library Association, Post-War Standards for Public Libraries, Prepared by the Committee on Post-War Planning (Chicago: American Library Association, 1943), p. 54.

The library laws of Mississippi made the establishment of free public libraries permissive, therefore, the City Council of Jackson merely set the library program in motion by passing an ordinance which placed the public library of the city under the general library laws of the state.

Since 1914, Jackson had been supporting a public library for its white citizens but made no provisions for service to Negroes. In 1944 when it became necessary to improve the existing but inadequate facilities for whites, Miss Pearl Sneed, the librarian, felt that the library building program would not be complete unless it included facilities for service to the Negroes of Jackson. The first plans by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library, for library service to Negroes were delayed, therefore, public library service for the Negroes of Jackson had its beginning as a project of a private group, the Junior League.

The Junior League, a group of white citizens who promoted the development of the city by spear-heading and supporting worthwhile community projects, operated and supported the George Washington Carver Branch Library to serve the Negro public of Jackson. Although the Junior League sponsored and supported the library project, they received the full cooperation of the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library, Miss Pearl Sneed, the librarian, and her staff.

The Junior League supported the Carver Branch Library from January, 1950 to October 1, 1951, at which time the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library assumed its support. Later the board

opened a second branch for Negroes, the College Park Branch Library and the two became a part of the Jackson Public Library System.

There should be a community library easily accessible to every reader, and it should connect him with the total resources of his region and state.<sup>1</sup>

The two Negro branch libraries are desirably located on municipal bus routes. The College Park Branch is housed within the College Park Auditorium and does not have a separate entrance. This effects the hours of service to the public for the library must close when the auditorium is closed. Those persons who cannot avail themselves of the library services before 5:00 P.M. on Monday through Friday and Saturday before 1:00 P.M. will have to go across town to the Carver Municipal Library. Carver is located near the downtown shopping district.

All books and materials for both branches are processed at the main library. In addition to the 15,963 volumes in the two Negro branches, there are more than 63,000 volumes<sup>2</sup> and other holdings theoretically available to Negro citizens through inter-library loan from the main library.

Under the library laws of the state, the city levies a three-fourths mill tax on all taxable property within the municipality for the support of the public libraries.

---

<sup>1</sup>American Library Association, Public Library Service, op. cit., p. 14.

<sup>2</sup>"Jackson Municipal Library", op. cit.

"Salaries for staff members should be at a level to attract and hold personnel with the qualifications..."<sup>1</sup> The salaries included in the salary scale of the Jackson Public Library System are somewhat low in comparison with the findings published in Cost of Public Library Service<sup>2</sup> concerning salaries in other public libraries (see Appendix II).

The American Library Association recommends that:

The number of registered borrowers in public library units should meet the following minimum quantitative standards based on a three-year registration period:

For adult borrowers: 20 to 40 percent of the population 14 years of age and over.

For juvenile borrowers: 35 to 75 percent of the population from 5 through 14 years of age.<sup>3</sup>

The age grouping of the adult borrowers in the Jackson Public Library System is 14 years and above and for juvenile borrowers the age is from five through 13 years. The Negro population of Jackson of age 14 and above is 30,018 and of age group from five through 13 is 6,231.<sup>4</sup>

The Negroes of Jackson have made sporadic use of the public

<sup>1</sup>American Library Association, Public Library Service, op. cit., p. 42.

<sup>2</sup>American Library Association, Cost of Public Library Service in 1956: A Supplement to Public Library Service, A Guide to Evaluation With Minimum Standards, Prepared by the Coordinating Committee on Revision of Public Library Standards (Chicago: American Library Association, 1956), pp. 6-7.

<sup>3</sup>American Library Association, Post-War Standards for Public Libraries, op. cit., p. 29.

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census, op. cit., pp. 24-41.

library, and although circulation has increased steadily, high standards of use have not been attained. Table 5 shows the number and percent of the Negro population registered in the public libraries.

TABLE 5  
REGISTERED BORROWERS OF CARVER AND COLLEGE PARK  
BRANCH LIBRARIES, 1951-1957<sup>a</sup>

	Adults			Juveniles		
	Borrowers	Population	Per Cent	Borrowers	Population	Per Cent
1951-1952	1,452	30,018 <sup>c</sup>	5.0	761	6,231 <sup>c</sup>	12.0
1952-1953	645	...	2.0	400	...	6.4
1953-1954	430	...	1.4	401	...	6.4
1954-1955	434	...	1.4	375	...	6.0
1955-1956	1,255 <sup>b</sup>	...	4.0	751 <sup>b</sup>	...	12.0
1956-1957	1,136	...	4.0	761	...	12.0

<sup>a</sup>Reports to the Jackson Public Library Board of Trustees by the Librarians, Jackson, Mississippi, 1951-1957.

<sup>b</sup>Re-registration at both branches.

<sup>c</sup>U. S. Bureau of Census, op. cit., pp. 24-41.

Small use of the public libraries by the Negroes of Jackson may be contributed to a number of factors. Although there are many educational institutions, grade schools and colleges, located within or in close propinquity to Jackson, many of the public schools

have been erected within the past six years and the elementary schools for Negroes have only had library service since 1951. The 1950 Census indicates that the average Negro in Jackson had completed only 6.8 years of school. Thus, a group of people who have not been exposed to libraries and who also cannot read would not be expected to make too much use of public libraries.

Libraries are becoming increasingly important as educational agencies and since the opening of the first Negro branch library in Jackson in 1950, the schools and colleges have been developing and improving libraries in their own institutions, thus, those people who once had only the public library as a source of books for recreation and to supplement school assignments now have other sources for desired materials. Yet, with the building of better schools with more and better facilities, the educational level of the Negroes of Jackson will be raised and there is every likelihood that more of them will make greater use of the public libraries and their resources.

A library is not just a monument to symbolize service; it is effective only if the people of the community use it. Teachers and school librarians of Jackson can help to stimulate the use of public libraries by encouraging students to read for recreation and for more than class assignments. If students are taught the real value of libraries rather than being forced to go there for class assignments, they will more than likely use the library when they leave school. For the adults who have not learned to read, adult



education courses would help. The library should encourage more adults to take advantage of opportunities to raise their educational level.

## APPENDIX I

Copy of plans for the branch library for Negroes to be sponsored by the Junior League of Jackson, Mississippi.

### LIBRARY PROJECT - JUNIOR LEAGUE

Mrs. Thad Ryan, president of the Junior League, has been thinking that she would like to see the League, carry out for a period of three years a demonstration for Negro Library service. This project is to be sponsored by the Library Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library, and to be developed along the lines of policies of the plan for library extension through branch service. The library becoming a branch of the public library at the close of the demonstration period.

Miss Sneed, the librarian, has drawn up the following statement showing the essentials for operating a branch library:

#### I. Essentials for branch service:

1. Housing
2. Equipment
  - a) Books, minimum 3,000 volumes
  - b) Shelves, 300 running feet or 15 shelf sections each shelf 3 feet
  - c) 3 tables
  - d) 14 chairs
  - e) 1 desk for circulating books
  - f) adequate lighting
  - g) small calendar, ink pad, pencil sharpener, pen, clips
  - h) Registration cards, borrowers cards, index cards, dater, stamps
  - i) one typewriter
  - j) rest room facilities

3. One paid worker, preferably a Negro with some library training
4. Maid with pay
5. Volunteer workers

#### Administration

Local committee composed of five members, two of whom should be members of the Junior League. Other members should represent other groups such as P.T.A., etc. The Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public Library authorize Miss Pearl Sneed, the Librarian, to represent the board in an advisory capacity. The paid worker to be under the supervision of Miss Sneed.

The library should be opened at least 30 hours a week 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock Monday through Friday; Saturday 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock. The local committee should meet monthly at which time monthly reports should be submitted for the approval of the committee. A copy should be filed at the public library.

The books should be processed at the public library. Some books could be loaned from the public library.

Allocation of \$4,000 over a period of 12 months.

		Annual
Rent . . . . .	\$ 75	\$ 900
Paid worker . . . . .	150 (trained librarian)	1,800
Maid . . . . .	50	600
Heat, light, water . .	20	240
Typewriter . . . . .	100 (used)	100
Library supplies . . .	75	75
Labor to make shelves.	250	250
		<u>\$3,965</u>

Ask for donations for shelves, tables, chairs, books.

The project would give an excellent opportunity for volunteer work. Libraries employ and need personnel other than librarians. The

nature of the work - circulation, advice in selecting books and interpreting the use of material, registration of borrowers, circulation records, typing book cards, filing catalog cards, processing books.

The librarian will arrange to give short courses to the volunteer workers and make reports to the president of the Junior League.

The Board of Trustees are willing to sponsor the project as a demonstration, and at no time should be interpreted as service in lieu of the regular plan for adequate branch service to Negroes nor will it in any way interfere with plans for the room in the community center on Lynch Street for Negro library service.

The demonstration will offer an excellent opportunity for many key people, also people of influence to learn more about the great need for improving the library program of the city.

At the expiration of the demonstration period all equipment including books will be transferred to the authority of the Board of Trustees of the Library.

## APPENDIX II

Salary scales used in building Illustrative Budgets (based upon 1955 salaries in 603 public libraries).<sup>1</sup>

### Shelving Staff

Paging, book delivery, messenger  
\$1.00/hour

\$2,080/year

### Clerical Staff

1st Persons with typing and filing skill and ability to handle clerical transactions directly with library users \$2,400-3,000/year

2nd Above qualifications, plus special knowledge of library routines and/or some independent responsibility \$3,000-3,600/year

3rd With above general qualifications plus a considerable degree of responsibility \$3,600-4,200/year

### Professional-Administrative Staff

#### 1st level

Professional service without specialized subject service or administrative responsibility and not requiring prior experience \$3,700-4,300/year

#### 2nd level

Some specialized services responsibility or minor administrative responsibility \$4,400-5,000/year

#### 3rd level

Specialized subject or service responsibility (ex.) subject librarian, assistant librarian, department head, branch librarian \$5,000-5,600/year

---

<sup>1</sup>American Library Association, Cost of Public Library Service in 1956, op. cit., pp. 6-7.

## 4th level

Substantial Administration (ex.) director  
of small library, assistant director of  
large library, head of subject room or  
large department

\$6,000-7,000/year

## 5th level

Major administrative responsibility

\$7,000 and up

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Articles

- Hitchens, Harold Lee. "Civil War," The American Peoples Encyclopedia, ed. Franklin J. Meine, V (1952), 555.
- "Jackson Municipal Library," Library Journal, LXXX (March 15, 1955), 581.
- McAllister, Dorothy. "Library Service in Mississippi," Library Journal, LXXX (March 1, 1955), 537.
- Mississippi Code of 1942, Section 6200, quoted in Velma Taylor, "State Can Take Lead with Library Service," The Jackson Clarion Ledger, (June 9, 1958), p. 2.

### Books

- American Library Association. Cost of Public Library Service in 1956: A Supplement to Public Library Service, A Guide to Evaluation with Minimum Standards. Prepared by the Coordinating Committee on Revision of Public Library Standards. Chicago: American Library Association, 1956.
- American Library Association. County, Regional and District Library Laws. Compiled by the Committee of Library Extension. Chicago: American Library Association, 1957.
- American Library Association. Post-War Standards for Public Libraries. Prepared by the Committee on Post-War Planning. Chicago: American Library Association, 1943.
- American Library Association. Public Library Service: A Guide to Evaluation, With Minimum Standards. Prepared by the Coordinating Committee on Revision of Public Library Standards. Chicago: American Library Association, 1956.
- Haines, Helen E. Living With Books. New York: Columbia University Press, 1950.
- McCain, William D. The Story of Jackson. Vol. I. Jackson, Mississippi: Hyer Publishing Company, 1953.

### Public Documents

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Seventeenth Census of the United States: 1950. Population. Vol. II, Part 24. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1952.

### Reports

Carver Board of Trustees. Annual Report of the Librarian, Mrs. Bracey. December 31, 1950.

\_\_\_\_\_. Records of the Activities.

\_\_\_\_\_. Report by Mrs. Bracey, Librarian. February 20, 1950.

Carver and College Park Branch Libraries. Annual Report of the Librarian, Mrs. R. S. Iyells. September 25, 1952.

Committee Appointed to Study and Make Plans for the Library Project. Report to the Junior League. [n.d.]

Jackson Public Library. Reports to the Board of Trustees by the Librarians. Jackson, Mississippi, 1951-1957.

Wilson, Louis R. and Milezewski, Marion A., editors. Libraries of the Southeast. A Report of the Southeastern States Co-operative Library Survey, 1946-1947. Chapel Hill: The Southeastern Library Association, 1949.

### Unpublished Materials

Blueprint of Proposed Branch Library by N. W. Overstreet and Associates. Jackson, Mississippi, December 28, 1954.

Jackson Chamber of Commerce. "Jackson, Mississippi, Capital City" [n. d.]

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Carver Branch Library, Sponsored by the Junior League. Jackson, Mississippi, October 14, 1949.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Board of Trustees of Carver Branch Library. Jackson, Mississippi, January 16, 1950.

Radio Script, "Carver Branch Library." July, 1950.



Other Sources

Bethlehem Center. Interview with Mrs. Theresa Martin, Staff Member.  
June 6, 1958.

Carver and College Park Branch Libraries. Interview with Mrs. Ruby  
S. Tyells, Librarian. June 6, 1958.

Carver Municipal Library. Letter from Miss Vician Roman, Librarian,  
June 21, 1958.

\_\_\_\_\_. July 11, 1958.

\_\_\_\_\_. Interview with Miss Vivian Roman, Librarian. June 6, 1958.

Jackson Municipal Library. Interview with Miss Pearl Sneed, Librarian,  
June 6, 1958.

Mary Church Terrell Literary Club. Interview with Mrs. M. M. Hubert,  
Secretary. June 5, 1958.